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Essay
On
Catarrhal Inflammation

Respectfully Submitted To The
Profesors Of The Homeopathic
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There is no class of diseases more common, and more deserving the attention of the physician, than catarrhal inflammations; for, upon the correct perception of their character, and the proper administration of remedies, depends, ultimately, the issue of life or death.

All the passages, opening externally from the body, and through which extrementitious or recrementitious matters pass, are lined with a very delicate, and sensitive membrane, which, from the circumstance of its having a very glutinous, transparent fluid, secreted upon its surface, and constantly lubricating it, has acquired the name of mucous.

The structure of the mucous membrane, closely resembles that of the skin, and consists of three layers. the Epithelium; The mucous & The fibrous; The epithelium, is the cuticle of the mucous membrane; throughout the pharynx, and oesophagus, it resembles the cuticle, both in appearance and character;

It is continuous with the cuticle at the margin of the lips, and terminates by an irregular border at the cardiac orifice of the stomach. The proper mucous, or papillary layer, is analagous to the papillary layer of the skin, and like it, is the secretory structure, by which the epithelium is produced; its surface is covered by minute papillae, or villi, which are so numerous in the small intestines as to present the appearance of the pile of velvet. The mucous layer is very loosely connected with the fibrous. It is continuous at the lips and at the anus, with the papillary layer of the cutis. The fibrous layer, is the membrane of support, to the mucous layer. it gives to it, its strength and resistance. It is but loosely connected, with the mucous layer; but is firmly adherent to the muscular coat. In the loose cellular tissue, connecting the mucous with the fibrous layer, are situated

the glands that secrete the mucus; which keeps the membrane in a continually moist condition, and by its tenacity, preserves it, from the irritating impressions of the various extraneous substances, constantly passing over its surface. This membrane lines the Frontal sinuses, Nostrils, Fauces, All the internal surfaces of the air passages, and Alimentary Canal. When in a state of inflammation, according to the part affected, is derived, the name of the disease; In Nyctiritis or inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose, the various phenomena attending it, from the beginning to the termination, are clearly discerned; At first there is a visibly increased redness of the part, attended with a sense of heat, and dryness; the membrane swells, and thus somewhat obstructs, the free passage of the air through the nostrils, giving rise, to the feeling of stuffing, as it is commonly called; as well as loss of smell. after the congestion has existed for

a few hours, the secretion of mucous is restored, but instead of being bland, viscid and scanty, merely sufficient to lubricate the parts, it is both altered in quality, and quantity, and becomes acrid, watery, and abundant; frequently excoriating the parts over which it runs.

We take for granted, that in all parts of the membrane wherever situated, the same phenomena of inflammation, will present themselves; though they may be modified by the structures, with which they are in contact. In coryza sneezing is one of the attendant symptoms, an act by which, all the superabundant secretion of the nostrils, may be extruded, and executed by the respiratory muscles, through the medium of the nerves; in the act there is a sudden deep inspiration followed by a strong forcible expiration which driving the air through the mouth and nose, carries with it all the obstructing mucus.

In all the inflammatory affections of the air passages of the throat, and chest. cough is an attendant symptom; and is produced, by the presence of superabundant mucus, or other offending matters, or cold dry air; acting upon the nervous ramifications of the part, and conveying by their sympathetic relations, the morbid influence to the respiratory muscles, producing a sudden, spasmodic, full inspiration, followed by a forcible expiration, by which the irritating agent is expelled. The first symptom in inflammation of the mucous membrane, is dryness, the morbific agent, whether the sudden impression of cold, or the action of mechanical irritants, depresses the vital functions of the secretory vessels, and the mucous follicles refuse, to pour out their accustomed secretion; The next is redness the capillaries becoming engorged in consequence of the retention.

The next is swelling, caused by the increasing distension of the vessels; And heat, and pain, from the undue pressure, exerted upon the nerves thereof, and inflammatory action necessarily excited. After this state, and condition of things, has existed for a few hours, the parts relax, and there is a copious, vitiated, watery, and corroding secretion poured out; which gradually beomes thicker, of a greenish yellow, or whitish hue, and is gradually restored to its natural condition, as the parts are restored to their natural condition; by the cessation of the inflammatory action. When that portion of the membrane, lining the larynx is inflamed; its tumefaction narrowing the calibre of the tube, and impeding the action of the muscles, consequently, produces loss of voice. In the trachea, the same cause, diminishing the volume of air, produces hoarseness, likewise in the bronchial and their

lesser ramifications dyspnoea is produced though it may be occasioned by a superabundance of mucus or other fluids;

From what has been said, it is evident, that wherever the mucus membrane is located, the characteristic symptoms of its inflammation, are the same: namely — redness, swelling, heat, pain, vitiated secretion, and sometimes ulceration, attended with sneezing, stuffing, cough, expectoration, or dyspnoea, according to its locality.

Coryza or cold in the head, this disease consists, of an inflammation of the mucous membrane, lining the frontal sinuses, and the nostrils; it usually commences with lassitude, a sense of coldness, slight shiverings, sneezing; dull, and heavy feeling, in the head, succeeded in a short time by lachrymation; more or less obstruction in the nose; sense of fulness, or pain in the region of the frontal cavities; swelling or inflammation of the

nostrils; nose dry and tender, or constant discharge of mucus, of a mild burning, or corrosive character; eyes inflamed, watery, and sensitive to light; buzzing or roaring in the ears; drowsiness, heaviness, and dull pains in the head; chills alternating with flushes of heat; pain and soreness in the limbs, and bones; thirst worse in the night; cold sores upon the lips; stupid, languid, and indifferent, or irritable and ill humored.

Treatment. When there is much fever present, Aconite is the appropriate remedy, until the symptoms are moderated. Nux vomica will be useful when we find obstruction, with great dryness of the mouth; heat of face, increased towards evening; itching in the nose; painful sensibility, of the interior of the nose; obstruction during the night only; secretion from the nose during the day; heat and confusion in the head; general languor, grief and vexation.

Pulsatilla exercises a powerful control, over the following symptoms, tickling sensation in the nose as from very fine snuff; very violent sneezing; loss of smell; discharge of blood from the nose on using the handkerchief, secretion of foetid mucus from the nose; painful ulcerations in the nostrils; sensibility of the eyes to light; pressive headache; broken sleep, melancholy; inclination to weep; shiverings,

Chamomilla is appliable to cold in the head, presenting as its characteristics, a discharge of mucus from the nose; the nostrils ulcerated; chapped, and inflamed; pain in the lips which desquamate; somnolency; confusion in the head; giddiness one cheek red, the other pallid; shiverings and intense thirst; this medicine is particularly appropriate to children. Mercury renders effective service, when there is excessive discharge, the nose excoriated, both within, and without; and where we find rheuma-

tic pains in the limbs. Belladonna is applicable, where there are nocturnal shootings in the nose; swelling, redness, and burning at the point; great dryness; haemorrhage;
Bryonia where there is swelling of the nose, with painful sensibility to the touch; obstruction; dryness; ulceration; great discharge of mucus, with stinging pressure on the forehead; hard mucus drying in scabs; Sulphur burning at the root of the nose; burning in the nostrils; inflammation, swelling, ulceration, and scabs in the nose; discharge of burning mucus, or secretion of a thick, yellowish, and puriform mucus; haemorrhage, principally in the morning; and sometimes attended with vertigo also spasmodic sneezing, sometimes preceded by nausea, smell completely lost; there are many other remedies that might be referred to but those that I have mentioned cover pretty much all the symptoms of the disease.

The next disease, that occurs in the respiratory passages, is Laryngitis or inflammation of the mucous membrane lining the Larynx. The disorder is ushered in, by the usual symptoms of inflammatory fever, headache; nausea, Languor chillings &c. attended with a feeling of soreness in the fauces, more or less tenderness upon pressure, and uneasiness in swallowing; the voice becomes changed into a thick, slightly hoarse whisper; the patient is unable to cough, but in the effort to do so, makes a forcible expiration, which sounds like a grunt; and sometimes a sort of hawking takes place, by which the secreted matter is expelled. The expectoration is not abundant, and consists almost wholly of saliva of a ropy character; the breathing is laborious, and shrill during inspiration; and sometimes considerable dyspnoea attends; the heat of skin is great; the pulse rapid and hard; the thirst considerable, but incapable of

being satisfied, from the suffering, that is occasioned by the attempt to swallow; sometimes the epiglottis is involved, and the motions of the tongue, thereby rendered painful and difficult; respiration somewhat impeded from the commencement of the disease, advances with occasional violent, and distressing paroxysms of dyspnoea; until, (if) the disease is not subdued) death occurs by actual suffocation it generally runs its course, if not checked, in a few hours. seldom over twenty four.

Treatment. The principal remedies used in this disease, are Aconite, Spongia, Hepar Sulphuris, Lachesis, Belladonna, Phosphorus.

Aconite. when the inflammatory fever runs high, must be immediately resorted to, and continued until there are manifest symptoms of abatement. Spongia is applicable where there is much hoarseness,

cough or hawking; dryness and burning pain, breathing shrill and whistling; expectoration of viscid mucus; if not much benefit is derived from this remedy, we may next resort to Hepar Sulphuris. its characteristics are Hoarseness; Pain and great sensibility of the larynx, with weak and rough voice, emaciation; hectic fever; and sleeplessness; Permanent pain in the laynx, aggravated by pressure, speech, coughing, and breathing, suffocating and violent, cough with inclination to vomit. attacks of dry rough, and hollow cough with inclination to vomit; attacks of dry, rough, and hollow cough, with anguish and suffocation, causing one to weep, ringing and pain in the head during the cough, as if it were going to burst; sneezing after the cough. Lachesis. the symptoms are. contraction and constriction of the larynx, with a sensation of swelling, and tightness; painful sensibility of the larynx.

and of the neck when touched, and to the slightest pressure, with danger of suffocation on feeling the gullet, and on holding back the head; sensation of choking, and pulsation, between the larynx and the chest; dryness, burning, and pain, as from excoriation; cough often fatiguing, with inability to raise anything; excited mostly by a tickling in the larynx; mucus tenacious; acid or sanguineous spittle, and of a disagreeable taste; haemoptysis.

Belladonna. voice weak, hoarse, squeaking, and nasal; loss of the voice; great soreness of the larynx; with danger of suffocation when feeling the gullet, as well as when coughing, speaking, or breathing; spasmodic constriction; cough with spitting of blood. Phosphorus. Hoarseness and scraping in the throat sometimes prolonged; loss of voice; very painful sensibility of the larynx, which does not allow one to speak;

burning pain; expectoration of mucus; dry cough every day, which continues several hours, with pains in the stomach and abdomen; cough with vomiting; cough with expectoration of slimy mucus, or of blood, with smarting in the chest; cough with purulent expectoration. Cynanche Trachealis. or croup. is the next disease of the respiratory passages, that presents itself It consists of a peculiar inflammation of the mucous membrane, lining the trachea, causing the secretion of a thick viscid substance, generally opaque, of about the consistency of the boiled white of an egg, which adheres to its inner surface, and assumes the form of the parts it covers; when this, generally denominated the false membrane, has been allowed to form the case becomes exceedingly critical.
The principal exciting causes are, exposure to cold or damp, derangement of the

digestive functions; from too nutritious or heating diet; too much animal food, or stimulants, such as wine or coffee; It is confined principally to children, seldom attacking adults. At its commencement, this affection is frequently deceptive, and assumes a catarrhal form; the patient complains of hoarseness, mental and bodily depression; slight febrile excitement, particularly towards evening, united with dry short, hollow cough with a slight sense of burning, pain, and tickling, in the windpipe; soon however the sound of the cough, voice and respiration, assumes a special character, presenting nothing analogous to catarrh, it is veiled, sonorous, whistling, sometimes grave and resonant, at other times shrill and squeaking; the respiration is more or less wheezing; and the cough excites pain, which the

sufferer indicates by carrying his hand to his throat; occasionally however, the disease is sudden in its accefs, and not preceded by catarrhal symptoms; the cough is consequently hoarse, barking, hollow, or on the other hand acute shrill and clear the voice is hoarse, rough or wheezing, the face is red, mottled, swollen and at times blue; a clammy sweat suffuses the body, the breathing is difficult, and the head is thrown back to facilitate respiration. there is seldom much expectoration and when any matter does come up, in coughing it has a stringy appearance resembling portions of a membrane. when danger threatens; the pulse is hard, frequent, and occasionally intermittent, the breathing exceedingly difficult, the voice sinks to a whisper, the eye has a dull glafsy, or dilated appearance; and the whole system seems.

in a state of utter prostration

Treatment. In the commencement of the disease, Aconite, Bryonia, and Chamomilla frequently prevent its full developement. When the disease is fully established Bromine Hepar Sulphuris; Spongia, and Lachesis are the most efficacious remedies; during the inflammatory period, when there is great febrile burning heat, thirst, shoot dry cough, and hurried laborious breathing, Aconite may be administered; when there is dry cough, wheezing in the chest, cough with expectoration of tenacious, bitter mucus, dryness in the throat and thirst, with great fretfulness towards evening, Chamomilla is appropriate. When there is frequent dry cough, spasmodic or suffocating, accompanied with violent bursting headache, particularly at the temples, with pricking in the side, or pit of the stomach, Bryonia will be found useful.

Bromine. Formation of false membrane in the larynx, and trachea; spasm in the larynx occasioning suffocation; cough with croup. sound, hoarse. wheezing; fatiguing, not. permitting one. to utter a word, accompanied with sneezing; with violent suffocative fits, respiration characterised by mucous rattling; wheezing, alternately slow and suffocative; and hurried and. superficial; laboured, painful.; oppressed, gasping for air; heat in the face; increased secretion of urine, pulse rather hard; slow at first, afterwards accelerated. Hepar Sulphuris. violent fits of cough, as if one would — suffocate or vomit; deep, occasioned by tightness of breathing; husky, accompanied with painful. soreness of the chest at every turn of cough, violent; the air rushing violently against the larynx, which causes a pain in the part; scraping scratching; with mucus expectoration,

The cough being occasioned by titilation in the throat, or by a scraping in the trachea; increased unto vomiting by a deep inspiration; weakness of the organs of speech and chest, preventing her from talking aloud; short breathing; pressure in the throat, occasioning a constrictive feeling, as if he should be suffocated; urine pale, clear while being emitted, afterwards becoming turbid and thick, depositing a white sediment; or flocculent, turbid, while being emitted dark yellow, burning during emission; great unconquerable drowsiness; profuse sweat, day and night viscid profuse night sweats, sweat before midnight; sad, apprehensive; inclined to weep.— Spongia Hollow cough with expectoration, with pain in the chest and trachea; roughness in the throat; night cough with weeping expression; breathing aggravated as by a.

plug in the throat; slow or quick; panting
larynx painful; as if from pressure; worse
when touched; scratching, burning, and
constrictive sensation in the larynx; pain
ful feeling of swelling, of the cervical glands
near the larynx, and trachea; stinging in
the throat, and sensation in the outer
parts of the neck, as if something were
pressing out morning and evening; pain
ful tension on the left side of, and near
the apple of Adam, when turning the head
to the right side; the eyes are sunken;
the urine deposits a thick, greyish white
sediment; general morning sweat; pulse
quick and hard; drowsiness; lassitude of
the whole body; out of humour, every
thing puts him out of humour; even
talking and answering of questions.
Lachesis. Fatiguing cough, excited by
dryness, or continual tickling in the larynx
or chest; or by pain or tickling in the pit

of the stomach or epigastrium; also by the slightest pressure on the exterior of the throat; cough excited by talking, laughing or reading aloud; or any thing which may tend, to increase the dryness or irritation in the throat. short, dry, suffocating cough as if caused by the pressure, of a crumb of bread sticking in the throat; with in effectual efforts to expectorate; cough on rising from the recumbent posture, or attacks of cough always after sleeping, great hoarseness, great sensitiveness of the larynx, and trached, to the touch; the slightest pressure, affecting almost to suffocation; voice very low, and hollow, with a sound like that, of a person speaking through the nose; fainting; nausea; swooning; loss of sense; rigidity of frame; great prostration of strength; especially towards evening.

Bronchitis. Is the next form of catarrhal disease, and consists of inflammation more or less acute, of the mucous membrane lining the bronchial tubes; In severe forms of the disease, the vascular and cellular structure of the lungs, become more or less implicated; It is of more frequent occurrence, in old age and childhood; The causes are protracted exposure to cold, alternations from heat to cold, inhalations of dust, and other irritative substances, insufficient clothing, and improper exposure of the throat and neck, after much talking, public speaking or Singing.

The symptoms of acute bronchitis, are constriction and aching sensation, extending over the whole chest; breathing very much oppressed, quick, anxious, irregular, laboured; the voluntary muscles of respiration, often called into play; expectoration at first dry, soon becomes viscid, and frothy, and sometimes streaked with blood; more or less cough; hoarse and painful in children;

Throbbing pain in the forehead, and aching pain in the eyes, aggravated on coughing; face, red, or pallid, expression anxious; general weakness, foul moist tongue, and loss of appetite; bowels costive; temperature of the skin nearly natural, but sometimes hot and dry; pulse at first, but little increased in frequency, becoming, as the disease advances, very rapid; urine scanty, and high coloured, vertigo; rattling in the throat and chest; wheezing respiration; the cheeks and lips, pale and livid; the extremeties cold; rattling, and sense of suffocation in the throat; extreme prostration, and complete insensibility. Chronic Bronchitis follows after an acute attack, and is characterised, by some cough, expectoration of viscid, or puriform sputa; dyspnoea on the slightest exertion; nocturnal exacerbations of fever; emaciation, and in some instances Hectic Symptoms. When the expectoration is copious, the crepitous rhonchus can be discerned at isolated points,

or over the whole chest; when there is no expectoration, the dry sonorous or sibilant rattle.

Treatment. Remedies, Aconite, Tartar Emetic; Bryonia; Spongia; Belladonna; Phasphorus; Pulsatilla; Mercurius; Aconite. In the inflammatory stage, the most marked indications are, hot, dry, skin, with strong, hard and accelerated pulse; hoarseness with roughness of the voice; short dry and frequent cough, excited by tickling in the throat and chest; obstructed respiration, sibilant or sonorous rhonchus, anxiety, restlessness, headache and thirst, with occasional scanty expectoration, of viscid mucus.

Tartar Emetic, is indicated when there are severe paroxisms of coughing; with suffocating obstruction of respiration wheezing respiration; mucous rhonchus; very great shortness of breath, with anxious oppression at the chest; great anxiety and agitation; palpitation of the heart; pain in the back and loins; pressure on the eyes; pains in the head; thirst.

Bryonia is indicated when there is laborious, rapid, and anxious breathing, with a constant inclination, to take a deep inspiration; hoarseness; headache; dry cough; attended with a burning pricking pain, extending from the throat, to the middle of the sternum; a cough with scanty, and difficult expectoration of viscid, sputa, in some instances streaked with blood; sibilant rhoncus; dryness of the mouth and lips; excessive thirst.

Spongia. Is indicated when there is a considerable degree of inflammation in the bronchial tubes, especially the larger: with sibilant or sonorous rhonchus; and also at a more advanced stage of the disease, when the mucus rhonchus, is distinctly audible; with hollow dry cough, day and night, but worse towards evening; or cough with scanty, viscid, ropy expectoration; heat in the chest, burning, tickling irritation, in the larynx; quick, anxious, laborious respiration; inability to breathe, unless the head is thrown backward; hoarseness.

Belladonna. This remedy is useful, when there is some headache, materially aggravated by coughing; oppression of the chest; and constriction; as if bound; with loud wheezing, and rattling of mucus in the bronchi; short, anxious and rapid

respiration; dry fatiguing cough, especially at night; which is endeavoured to be suppressed, on account of the pains it creates; heat of the skin and thirst; soreness of the throat.

Phosphorus. respiration much oppressed, accompanied with great anxiety, and heat in the chest; dry cough, excited by tickling in the throat or chest, aggravated by talking or laughing, and followed by expectoration of stringy mucus, of a saltish taste, when the disease has extended to the substance of the lungs, crepitation. rusty sputa.

Pulsatilla is indicated when the disease occurs, in persons of a mild disposition or of lymphatic temperament, and the symptoms are as follows. Respiration short, accelerated, and impeded, attended with rattling of mucus, heat in the chest, and anxiety; hoarseness; shaking cough, worse towards evenings at night, or in the morning; accompanied with considerable expectoration of tenacious, or thick, yellowish mucus, sometimes mixed with blood.

Mercurius. This remedy may occasionally be found useful, when the symptoms of bronchitis, are accompanied with excessive perspiration;
when the cough is fatiguing, worse in the evening, and at night; and excited by a tickling irritation, or sensation of dryness in the chest, with quick short oppressed breathing, and louder respiration than ordinary; hoarseness; coryza, with watery, acrid discharge; swelling of the nose.